

I look forward to reviewing the detailed reorganization plans GSA is preparing.

The bill also contains provisions which would give civilian agencies additional tools to maintain their acquisition workforces. It would allow agencies to offer retention bonuses and to re-employ retirees in certain special circumstances. I would like to thank the Chairman for working with us to provide appropriate safeguards on the use of this authority, and for accepting a Democratic amendment regarding the appointment of the new Commissioner of the Federal Acquisition Service.

While not directly relevant to this legislation, I would like to take this opportunity to urge GSA to consult more closely with Federal employee unions on its plans for reorganizing. A number of representatives of Federal employees have contacted the Committee with concerns about the reorganization. Primary among those concerns is the fact that no one seems to be talking to them about the plans for merging the two services. This approach can only breed distrust and fear, and I urge the Administrator to improve communication with the affected Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2066, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2066, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 280) celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 280

Whereas the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to our Nation have been historically significant;

Whereas at the direction of Congress in 1978, the President proclaimed the week of May 4 through 10, 1979, as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, to provide the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, history, and concerns of Asian Pacific Americans;

Whereas this seven day period designated Asian Pacific American Heritage Week intended to mark two historical dates—May 7, 1843, when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and May 10, 1869, Golden Spike Day, when, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants, the first transcontinental railroad was completed;

Whereas in 1992, Congress by law designated that the month of May be annually observed as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month;

Whereas according to the U.S. Census Bureau an estimated 14.5 million United States residents trace their ethnic heritage, in full or in part, to Asia and the Pacific Islands;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders can list innovative contributions to all aspects of life in the United States ranging from the first transcontinental railroad to the Internet;

Whereas in the mid-1700's Filipino sailors formed the first Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the bayous of Louisiana;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have added to the vast cultural wealth of our Nation; and

Whereas more than 300,000 Americans of Asian or Pacific Island heritage have bravely and honorably served to defend the United States in times of armed conflict from the Civil War to the present: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the United States draws its strength from its diversity, including contributions made by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders;

(2) recognizes that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is a thriving and integral part of American society and culture;

(3) recognizes the prodigious contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the United States; and

(4) supports the goals of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 280.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 280 celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The resolution honors the immense contributions that Asians and Pacific Islanders have made to our Nation.

This month, May, is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and the theme is "Freedom For All—A Nation We Can Call Our Own."

Today, more than 14 million native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Asians call America their home nation. This legislation is a fitting tribute to our Asian and Pacific Island friends and neighbors. I thank the House leadership, particularly the Majority Leader for scheduling this meaningful resolution today.

Congress first observed this commemoration in 1978 as Asian Pacific American Heritage week during the first 10 days of May. Then, in 1992, Con-

gress expanded the commemoration to designate the entire month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The first 10 days of May include two important historical dates, May 7, which in 1843 marked the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States, and May 10, the date in 1869 on which the first North American transcontinental railroad was completed.

The railway was built heading east from Sacramento, California, and west from Omaha, Nebraska, and converged in Utah thanks to the hard work of thousands of laborers, most of whom were Chinese immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, as the war on terrorism continues today, I also wish to recognize the service that more than 300,000 Asian and Pacific veterans have made throughout American history. From the Army's courageous First and Second Filipino Regiments that General Douglas MacArthur sent to spy behind Japanese lines in World War II, to the indescribable bravery of today's soldier heroes like Marine Lance Corporal Victor Lu and Army Specialist Thai Vue, who have lost their lives in the past year in Iraq.

Asian and Pacific Americans have indeed sacrificed so much for our cherished liberty and freedoms. I know that all Members of the House join me in commending the selflessness of these veterans and active duty soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman of our Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for his hard work on House Resolution 280.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of the resolution, and I urge all of my colleagues to support its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and proud to represent an area in Chicago known as Chinatown, and also to note that I just returned during the break from visiting both China and Sri Lanka.

□ 1600

So I rise today in support of H. Res. 280, celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

I also want to take a minute to acknowledge the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, for his leadership on this important matter.

H. Res. 280 was introduced on May 17, 2005, and enjoys the support and cosponsorship of 66 Members of Congress. Asian Pacific Americans have a long and distinguished history of involvement and participation in this country. From the early 1800s to the 21st century, Asian and Pacific peoples have played a vital role in the development of the United States and have made lasting contributions in all elements of American society.

Today, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 14.5 million Americans trace at least a portion of their ethnic heritage to Asian and Pacific Islanders. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month has a rich tradition in this country as well. In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Mineta of California introduced a resolution that called upon President Carter to proclaim the first 10 days of May as Asian Pacific Heritage Week. The celebration remained in this form until President Bush extended the event into the full month of May in 1990.

It was decided that May was the appropriate month for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month because on May 7, 1843, the first group of Japanese immigrants came to the United States. Today, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated with events throughout the country intended to educate all of our citizens about the positive impact the Asian Pacific community has had on our Nation. The theme of this year's celebration is Freedom For All—a Nation We Call Our Own.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for sponsoring this measure and thank the Asian Pacific American community for their tremendous contribution to the wealth and success of our great Nation.

I also take a moment of personal privilege to thank a young woman who worked for several years with me as my legislative assistant, Miss Courtini Pugh, who was a member of the Asian Pacific community and is known as one of the most outstanding young persons in America. And so I urge swift passage of this bill.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I welcome this opportunity to highlight the contributions of Asian and Pacific Islander American communities to our nation.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates the contributions that Asian Pacific Islander Americans make in their daily lives. By sharing with us their heritage they bring us a greater understanding and appreciation for what it means to be Asian and Pacific Islanders and proud Americans.

Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have embraced America while honoring their heritage and passing their traditions on to their children. Asian and Pacific Islander Americans also serve our country with pride and distinction in the Armed Forces. I would especially like to honor the uniformed men from Guam who have given their lives to protect our freedom. Army Specialist Christopher Wesley, Lieutenant Michael Vega, Sergeant Eddie Chen, Corporal Jaygee Meluat, Specialist Jonathan Santos, and Officer Ferdinand Ibabao all paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq.

We honor the way the experience of Asian and Pacific Islanders contributes to our national identity because while most of us understand words like freedom and oppression in the abstract, a Vietnamese-American can tell you how the dream of freedom can keep you

alive while fleeing oppression on a boat in the high seas. A Chamorro or a Filipino-American who lived through enemy occupation during World War II can help you understand what freedom and liberty means because they had it taken away. If you have never experienced the immediate threat of war to your personal safety, a Korean-American can help you appreciate just how precious peace is. A Chinese-American or a Japanese-American can inspire you with their stories of making good on the American Dream after arriving in the United States without money, friends, or a strong understanding of the English language.

Asians and Pacific Islanders have powerful stories to tell. Their contribution to America is not just the varied foods and diverse cultures they have introduced to this land, it is also the stories of their incredible journeys to freedom.

As we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, let us honor the contributions of all Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. Let us appreciate the cultural diversity, the patriotism, and the communities that make America great.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Asian Pacific Islander Americans, APIA. I would like to thank my colleagues for recognizing Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Thanks to the late Representative Frank Horton from New York and my good friend, Secretary Norman Mineta, along with Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga, May is designated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to celebrate and honor the contributions of the APIA community.

In the past year, the APIA community has lost extraordinary community activists, advocates, leaders, and long time friends, such as Fred Korematsu, Dr. John B. Tsu, K. Patrick Okura, Iris Chang, and my colleague and friend Congressman BOB MATSUI.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), I feel privileged to represent a community that is growing exponentially and exceedingly diverse in culture, ethnicities, and language. Today, there are over 12 million APIAs living in the U.S. and representing 4.5 percent of the total U.S. population. By the year 2050, there will be more than 33 million APIAs living in the U.S. My home state of California has both the largest APIA population—4.6 million—and the largest numerical increase of APIAs since April 2000.

I am proud to be a member of the APIA community, because we continue to serve as positive contributors to our many communities by investing in education, business, and cultural opportunities for all Americans.

APIAs continue to build clout and power in all sectors of society. For example, APIAs had a purchasing power of \$296.4 billion in 2002, up 152 percent from 1990. APIAs in California had the most buying power—\$104.1 billion—but APIA buying power is growing fast in places like Nevada, Georgia and North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor the 40th anniversary of the Immigration Nationality Act of 1965 and the 30th anniversary of the Refugee Act of 1975 this year, we need to remember that our country was founded and created to protect our freedom and civil liberties. And, as a nation of immigrants we must embrace our diversity.

Embracing diversity also means we need to do a better job of disaggregating data and in-

formation about the APIA community. The APIA community is often misperceived as a monolithic racial group and is often seen as the model minority. Aggregating such a large and diverse group makes it difficult to understand the unique problems faced by the individual ethnicities and subgroups, such as the Southeast Asian Americans, who are refugees that fled their home countries during the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The APIA community continues to fight for our civil rights and against any injustices as Americans. Even after the internment of the Japanese Americans during World War II, we as a community did not grow embittered, or cowed by discrimination; instead, we progressed and moved forward.

In closing, this Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we take pride in our history, accomplishments, and the promise of our future as we continue to pave the way for a better tomorrow in the name of "Liberty and Freedom for All."

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today to recognize Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, one word comes to mind when I think of the people to whom we dedicate this month—and that word is persistence.

From the transcontinental railroad to academy-nominated films, Asian Pacific Americans have helped shape this Nation in incredible ways.

In fact, as many may know, the backbone of our country's railroad system was built with a labor force that consisted of 80 percent Chinese Americans, who prepared the foundation of our railroad tracks by dangling over cliffs with a mere rope tied to their waists on mountains that rose over 7,000 feet.

In literature, we have the contributions of scholarly elites such as Maxine Hong Kingston and Amy Tan, who have opened our eyes to the different practices of the Far East.

In fitness, we are exposed to the discipline of the world of martial arts with disciplines ranging from Tai Chi to Judo. Finally, in philosophy, we are introduced to the idea of Confucius, Sun Tzu, who wrote *The Art of War*, and Feng Sui to guide our lives.

Not to mention the Chinatowns of our nation, with cuisines ranging from India, Thailand, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam, that has transformed our taste buds with some of the best and most diverse Asian dishes—but more importantly shown the diversity of the continent.

But this wonderful list of Asian contributions did not come without a price. Thousands of Chinese Americans died under dangerous working conditions while building the transcontinental railroad, yet when the railroad was finally completed, they were not even allowed to be a part of the official photograph that documented those involved with the construction. Their names were not mentioned anywhere in news articles, and their faces quickly forgotten in American history.

Chinatowns were created out of necessity as a form of protection from discrimination and a need for survival. Stereotypes that bias our perceptions today came to form as a result of Asian Americans being restricted to specific low-level jobs as deemed appropriate by the majority of the time.

Various anti-immigration laws during the early 1900s ensured racial offenses against Asian Americans were abundant and legal. Our nation should never forget the atrocious

violations we imposed on the Japanese Americans during World War II as we shunned them from society as a result of their ethnicity.

Mr. Speaker, despite all the hardship and adversity that Asian Americans have faced during their time in the United States, the persistence and resilience of Asian Americans have allowed them to flourish into the leading minority group they are today.

I encourage my colleagues to learn from the history of Asian Americans in the United States, so that we may avoid the civil rights violations and discriminatory practices that hurt ethnic communities in the name of national security.

I would also like to encourage the future generations of Asian Americans to follow in the footsteps of their ancestors. Persist in your dreams of a fair America, persist in your desires for an equal America, and persist in your fight for an America that is as dedicated and tolerant of you as your ancestors have been with us.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution offered by my friend from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS.

I represent approximately 85,000 Asian Pacific Islander Americans in my Congressional district in New York City.

I am proud to represent the most diverse Congressional District in the country. From the strong Korean community in Elmhurst to the Philippine community of Woodside to Indian American in Jackson Heights to Bangladesh Americans in Parkchester, this district reflects the diversity of the continent of Asia and is a true testament of the American melting pot experience.

Thousands of Asian Americans and South Asians have left their lives behind in their homeland, just as my grandparents did, to make a better life for themselves in New York City. They have succeeded from the shops of 74th Street to the presence of Asians at all levels of law, medicine and commerce in our city. They have also become true stakeholders in our political system.

From the election of Jimmy Meng and John Liu to the New York State Assembly and City Council respectively to Uma Sen Gupta's election as the first Indian American district leader, Asian and South Asians are a vibrant part of our City but the political fabric as well.

Asian Pacific American Heritage month began on June 30, 1977 when the first 10 days of May 1978 were declared Asian Pacific American Heritage week.

Today, there are over 12 million Asian Pacific Islander Americans living in the United States. By the year 2050, there will be an estimated 33.4 million U.S. residents who will identify themselves as Asian alone, which will comprise 8 percent of the total population. This is a projected 213 percent increase of Asian Pacific Islander Americans between 2000 and 2050.

I am proud to represent Asian American and celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage with all my constituents and colleagues.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this month our nation pays tribute to the contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, including immigrants, refugees, and natives. More than 13 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, representing a diverse community of backgrounds,

cultures, and experiences, make their homes in the United States. Their unique contributions enhance the moral fabric and character of our great country.

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community is a fast-growing minority group in the United States. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are making valuable contributions to every aspect of American life—from business to education to science to the arts. For example, there are now more than 900,000 AAPI-owned small businesses across the country.

As we celebrate the significant progress made by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, it is right for us to honor the memory of great leaders of the AAPI community who have passed away recently, and by far one of the greatest was our own Congressman Bob Matsui, who despite imprisonment in an internment camp during World War II, never lost faith in our country, and went on to become a national champion for all of America's seniors. We miss Bob dearly, but the voters of California have blessed us by sending his wife, the Gentlelady from California, Ms. DORIS MATSUI, to carry on his wonderful legacy in this body.

In memory of Bob Matsui and other great figures in the history of our nation, it is only fitting that this year's theme for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is "Liberty and Freedom for All." In my own district, we have our share of emerging leaders from the Asian community, including my friend Shing-Fu Hsueh, the mayor of West Windsor, who is a model public figure. Like Bob Matsui, Shing-Fu Hsueh is a believer in the American ideal, that anyone—regardless of religion, race, or gender—can realize their dreams for themselves and their children. Unfortunately, the faith of every member of New Jersey's Asian community in that American ideal has been sorely tested recently.

You see, on the very eve of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, two talk show hosts—whose program airs on one of the largest stations in New Jersey—made a most obnoxious, insulting, and despicable series of anti-Asian statements.

Last month, these shock jocks verbally demeaned Mr. Jun Choi, a Korean-American running for mayor of Edison, New Jersey, mockingly asking their listeners "Would you really vote for someone named Jun Choi?" They then preceded to say that "Americans" should govern our towns, counties, and country—as if Jun Choi, Shing-Fu Hsueh, and the thousands of other hard-working, tax-paying, and participating people of Asian heritage are not real Americans.

I could cite even more examples from this outrageous broadcast but I refuse to demean this House by repeating some of the other language that these two radio racists used. I'm extremely disappointed that the management of the radio station in question, 101.5 FM,

has not issued a written public apology to Jun Choi and the entire Asian community. In my judgment it is the absolute minimum they should do, and I also believe the station management should pledge never again to allow such racist rants to be aired on their station.

Mr. Speaker, as the Asian Pacific American community continues to contribute to our society and grow in influence—politically, economically, and culturally—I am pleased to say that Americans like Jun Choi, Shing-Fu Hsueh, and DORIS MATSUI are indeed taking leading roles in our self-governing country.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 280, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF STATE OF ISRAEL

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con.Res. 149) recognizing the 57th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 149

Whereas in May 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from all over the world to re-establish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils committed by the Nazis which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations;